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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|--|
| 10/748,127 | 12/29/2003 | Joseph T. Wissmann | 600177-072 | 1749 | |
| 74685 | 7590 | 02/20/2009 | EXAMINER | | |
| IBM CORP. (LOT) | | AHLUWALIA, NAVNEET K | | | |
| C/O Ostrow Kaufman & Frankl LLP | | ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | |
| The Chrysler Building | | 2166 | | | |
| 405 Lexington Avenue, 62nd Floor | | | | | |
| NEW YORK, NY 10174 | | | | | |
| MAIL DATE | | DELIVERY MODE | | | |
| 02/20/2009 | | PAPER | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/748,127 Examiner NAVNEET K. AHLUWALIA | WISSMANN ET AL. Art Unit 2166 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2009.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 – 8, 10, 16, 17, 19 – 22, 24, 25, 32, 35 – 37, and 39 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1 – 8, 10, 16, 17, 19 – 22, 24, 25, 32, 35 – 37, and 39 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/14/2009 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Claims 1 – 8, 10, 16, 17, 19 – 22, 24, 25, 32, 35 – 37, and 39 are pending in this Office Action. After a further search and a thorough examination of the present application, claims 1 – 8, 10, 16, 17, 19 – 22, 24, 25, 32, 35 – 37, and 39 remain rejected. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 to claims 16 – 25 are withdrawn in view of the amendment.

3. Applicant's arguments filed with respect to claims 1 – 8, 10, 16, 17, 19 – 22, 24, 25, 32, 35 – 37, and 39 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that there is no teaching in Tal of disclosing a history of schema versions on each database.

In response to Applicant's argument, the Examiner submits that Tal supports the disclosure of maintaining history of the schema versions of each database in column 5

lines 4 – 25, where it teaches the application versions defined in the DB schema version and the schema maintenance phase. Furthermore in column 6 lines 36 – 43, Tal discloses the repository that includes the metadata describing amongst many things the software version and the DB Schema version.

Hence, Applicant's arguments do not distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art of record. In light of the foregoing arguments, the 102 rejections are sustained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1 – 10, 16 – 25 and 32 – 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tal et al. ('Tal' herein after) (US 7,107,589 B1).

With respect to claim 1, 16 and 32,

Tal discloses a method for synchronization of copies of a database, comprising: determining changes made to a schema of a first copy of the database, a copy of the database contains schema matching the schema of the database and maintains a

history of schema changes (*column 6 lines 36 – 43, Tal*); generating a migration script according to a comparison of the changes made to the schema with the history of schema changes of the first copy of the database (*column 3 lines 27 – 35, Tal*); incorporating the migration script into a framework (*column 3 lines 41 – 51, Tal*); sending the framework having the migration script incorporated therein to a location of one or more other copies of the database for executing to update the one or more other copies of the database including sending the framework through a source code control system (Figures 1 – 3, *column 5 lines 46 – 55, Tal*).

With respect to claim 2, 17,

Tal discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the migration script includes SQL instructions (*column 6 lines 20 – 36, Tal*).

With respect to claim 3,

Tal discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the migration script includes instructions in the form of a derivative of SQL (*column 6 lines 20 – 36, Tal*).

With respect to claim 4,

Tal discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the migration script includes executable code (*column 6 lines 57 – 67 and column 7 lines 1 – 15, Tal*).

With respect to claim 5, 19 and 35,

Tal discloses the method of claim 4, wherein the executable code comprises Java code (column 7 lines 5 – 39, Tal).

With respect to claim 6, 20 and 36,

Tal discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the step of reading the changes comprises comparing a stored snapshot of the schema of the first copy of the database to a current schema of the first copy of the database (column 9 lines 46 – 67 and column 10 lines 1 – 5, Tal).

With respect to claim 7, 21 and 36,

Tal discloses the method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more other copies of the database comprises a master copy of the database (column 9 lines 11 – 26, Tal).

With respect to claim 8, 22 and 37,

Tal discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the step of sending comprises sending the framework by electronic mail (column 8 lines 57 – 62, Tal).

With respect to claim 24, and 39,

Tal discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the step of sending comprises sending the framework through a source code control system (column 8 lines 40 – 62, Tal).

With respect to claim 10, 25,

Tal discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the step of sending comprises sending the framework by storing the framework on a floppy disk and sending the floppy disk by a physical mail service (if the data was stored on a disk it would be obvious that it could be sent by physical mail, column 8 lines 57 – 62, Tal).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Navneet K. Ahluwalia whose telephone number is 571-272-5636.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alam T. Hosain can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Navneet K. Ahluwalia/
Examiner, Art Unit 2166

Dated: 02/12/2009

/Hosain T Alam/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2166